

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03575 192059Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 IO-13 OMB-01 MCT-01 OPR-02

A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /089 W

-----192103Z 091649 /41

P 191919Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1974

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 3575

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION PROTESTS SHOOTING OF PANAMANIAN YOUTH  
BY CANAL ZONE POLICEMAN

REFS: A. PANAMA 3552, B. PANAMA 3554

SUMMARY: MAY 18 PANAMANIAN PRESS FRONTPAGED REPORT THAT A PANAMANIAN YOUTH HAD BEEN SHOT AND WOUNDED BY A CANAL ZONE POLICEMAN PREVIOUS AFTERNOON. CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT REPORTS THAT HE WAS SHOT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DISARM POLICEMAN. BN G-2 LT. COL. NORIEGA FURIOUS ABOUT THIS AND ANOTHER RECENT SHOOTING INCIDENT, ARRIVED AT SCENE AND HARANGUED CANAL ZONE POLICE FOR SHOOTING PANAMANIAN. A GROUP OF 125-150 YOUTHS HELD DEMONSTRATION AT SCENE OF SHOOTING AFTERNOON OF MAY 18. GROUP CROSSED TO CANAL ZONE SIDE OF FOURTH OF JULY AVENUE, HEARD A BRIEF SPEECH AND THEN DISPERSED. MAY 19 PRESS COVERAGE OF INCIDENT IS RESTRAINED. END SUMMARY.

1. CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION ON INCIDENT (REF A) INDICATES THAT CANAL ZONE PATROLMAN JOSE JAEN (A PANAMANIAN CITIZEN) WAS APPROACHING A GROUP OF YOUTHS WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO STOP CARS COMING OFF THE THATCHER FERRY BRIDGE WHEN HE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 03575 192059Z

JUMPED FROM BEHIND BY ANOTHER YOUTH WHO TRIED TO TAKE HIS PISTOL. IN THE ENSUING SCUFFLE THE ATTACKER, (CARLOS JIMENEZ, A 16-YEAR OLD PANAMANIAN), PULLED A PENKNIFE AND STABBED THE OFFICER IN THE HAND. THE OTHER YOUTHS, MEANWHILE WERE PELTING THE OFFICER WITH ROCKS. OFFICER JAEN THEN SHOT HIMENEZ IN THE LEG. JIMENEZ WAS HELPED INTO THE CHORRILLO SLUM AREA BY HIS ACCOMPLICES, AND POLECEMAN WAS TAKEN TO GORGAS HOSPITAL FOR

TREATMENT. (COMPLETE CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT REPORT BEING  
POUCHED TO ARA/PAN.)

2. SHORTLY AFTER THE INCIDENT, GN G-2 LT. COL. NORIEGA,  
ACCOMPANIED BY ARMED PLAINCLOTHESMEN, ARRIVED AT THE SCENE OF THE  
INCIDENT AND HARANGUED JAEN'S REPLACEMENT ABOUT THE SHOOTING.  
PATROLMAN RADIOED HIS SUPERIOR TO COME TALK WITH NORIEGA, BUT  
LATTER DEPARTED AS THE POLICE SUPERVISOR ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.  
CANAL ZONE POLICE ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH NORIEGA WAS  
UNSUCCESSFUL. USSOUTHCOM PROVOST MARSHAL DID MEET WITH NORIEGA  
ON MAY 18 TO DISCUSS INCREASING TENSION. HE REPORTED THAT NORIEGA  
WAS FURIOUS OVER RECENT SHOOTINGS OF PANAMANIAN BY "TRIGGER-  
HAPPY" CANAL ZONE POLICE, AND SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE A DEMON-  
STRATION OR INCURSION INTO THE CANAL ZONE ON FRIDAY MAY 20.

3. AROUND 1700 ON MAY 18, A GROUP OF ABOUT 125 YOUTHS GATHERED  
AT THE INTERSECTION OF FOURTH OF JULY AVENUE AND BALBOA ROAD,  
CARRYING ANTI-U.S. PLACARDS AND CHANTING SLOGANS ABOUT POLICE  
BRUTALITY. DEMONSTRATORS MOVED INTO THE STREET, DISRUPTED TRAFFIC  
AND THREW A FEW ROCKS AT CANAL ZONE VEHICLES. ABOUT 80 OF THE  
PROTESTERS CROSSED FOURTH OF JULY TO A TRAFFIC ISLAND ON THE  
CANAL ZONE SIDE. AFTER A SHORT SPEECH, THE DEMONSTRATORS MOVED  
DOWN FOURTH OF JULY AND DISPERSED AT ABOUT 1900. (THIS CORRECTS  
SOME DETAILS IN REFTELS.)

4. MEDIA REACTION TO DEMONSTRATION HAS BEEN RESTRAINED.  
"CRITICA" MAY 19 EDITION PREDICTABLY HAILS THE "MASSIVE  
DEMONSTRATION REPUDIATING THE MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES QUARTERED  
IN THE CANAL ZONE." "MATUTINO" LABELS THE INCIDENT AS A PROTEST  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PANAMA 03575 192059Z

OVER THE SHOOTING OF CARLOS JIMENEZ BY A PANAMANIAN MEMBER OF  
THE CANAL ZONE POLICE. "LA ESTRELLA" DESCRIBES THE DEMONSTRATION  
AS PROTESTING "RECENT PROVOCATIONS BY CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES",  
SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE JIMENEZ SHOOTING, AN INCIDENT IN  
CRISTOBAL WHERE A PANAMANIAN YOUTH WAS SHOT WHILE ATTEMPTING TO  
ROB AN OFF-DUTY CANAL ZONE POLICEMAN, AND THE ESCAPE OF A  
PANAMANIAN SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN THE CANAL ZONE PENITENTIARY  
BY JUMPING OUT OF A WINDOW OF THE DISTRICT COURT BUILDING.

5. COMMENT: THESE INCIDENTS MAY ALLOW NORIEGA TO DIVERT STUDENT  
UNHAPPINESS WITH THE GOP TOWARD THE CANAL ZONE, THOUGH HE  
CANNOT BE CERTAIN THE DODGE WILL WORK. THE SITUATION REMAINS  
TENSE AND FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS ARE LIKELY OVER THE NEXT  
FEW DAYS.  
GONZALEZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, YOUTH GROUPS, CASUALTIES, REPRISALS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PANAMA03575  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770179-0291  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770539/aaaabhqm.tel  
**Line Count:** 112  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 96d7cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PANAMA 3552, 77 PANAMA 3554  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2450029  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEMONSTRATION PROTESTS SHOOTING OF PANAMANIAN YOUTH BY CANAL ZONE POLICEMAN  
**TAGS:** PINT, SOPN, PINS, PN, PQ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/96d7cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009